

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 9, 2005. Claims 1-8, 10-16, 18-24, and 26-36 were pending in the present application. The present response amends claims 1, 6, 13, 18, 19, 21, 26, and 30; and cancels claims 7-8, 14, and 27; leaving pending in the application claims 1-6, 10-13, 15-16, 18-24, 26, and 28-36. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Claims

Claims 6 and 8 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, such that claim 6 should be in condition for allowance. The limitations of allowable claim 8 have been incorporated in independent claim 1, such that claim 1 should be in condition for allowance. Claim 8 has been canceled. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of claims 1 and 6.

II. Objection to the Claims

Claims 18 and 19 are objected to as depending from a canceled claim. These claims have been amended and now properly depend from claim 13. This amendment is supported by the specification and does not add new matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to claims 18 and 19 be withdrawn.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-19, and 21-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Fortman* (US 6,594,349) in view of *Tunnicliffe* (US 6,055,240). Claims 2 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Fortman* in view of *Tunnicliffe* and further in view of *Klein* (US 2002/0212818).

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to recite the allowable limitations of claim 8, such that claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. The other independent

claims have also been amended to recite similar limitations, such that these independent claims, and the claims that depend therefrom, should also be in condition for allowance. While Applicants do not necessarily agree with the prior rejections of these claims, these amendments are made to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims similar to those pending before the present amendment in subsequent applications.

As all claims contain limitations indicated to be allowable, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

IV. Amendment to the Claims


Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason D. Lohr
Reg. No. 48,163

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
JDL:jdl
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